

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-25 canceled.

26 (withdrawn). A collapsible structure including a frame, the frame comprising:

- at least first, second, third, and fourth segments sequentially and hingedly connected to one another allowing the frame to collapse and expand;
- a first hinge mechanism interconnecting the first and second segments;
- a second hinge mechanism interconnecting the second and third segments;
- a third hinge mechanism interconnecting the third and fourth segments;
- the first and third hinge mechanisms defining a first axis, wherein the frame is foldable about the first axis to form a first collapsed position; and
- the second hinge mechanism defining a second axis generally coplanar with the first axis, wherein the frame is foldable about the second axis to form a second collapsed position.

27 (withdrawn). The collapsible structure of claim 26, wherein the second axis is generally perpendicular to the first axis.

28 (withdrawn). The collapsible structure of claim 26, wherein at least a portion of the first segment superposes at least a portion of the second segment and at least a portion of the fourth segment superposes at least a portion of the third segment when the frame is in the first collapsed position.

29 (withdrawn). The collapsible structure of claim 26, wherein at least a portion of the first segment superposes at least a portion of the fourth segment and at least a portion of the second segment superposes at least a portion of the third segment when the frame is in the second collapsed position.

30 (withdrawn). The collapsible structure of claim 26, wherein at least one of the first, second, third, and fourth segments is made up of a single piece of material.

31 (withdrawn). The collapsible structure of claim 26, wherein each of the second and third segments includes a non-linear configuration.

32 (withdrawn). The collapsible structure of claim 26, wherein each of the second and third segments includes a generally L-shaped configuration.

33 (withdrawn). The collapsible structure of claim 26, wherein each of the first, second, third, and fourth segments includes a non-linear configuration.

34 (withdrawn). The collapsible structure of claim 26, wherein each of the first, second, third, and fourth segments includes a generally L-shaped configuration.

35 (withdrawn). The collapsible structure of claim 26, further comprising a fourth hinge mechanism interconnects the fourth and first segments, wherein the second axis extends through the fourth hinge mechanism.

36 (withdrawn). The collapsible structure of claim 26, further comprising a fabric material associated with the frame covering at least a portion of the frame.

Claims 37 - 52 canceled

53 (withdrawn). A collapsible structure comprising a first frame and a second frame connected to the first frame, each of the first and second frames including:

at least first, second, third, and fourth segments sequentially and hingedly connected to one another allowing each of the first and second frames to collapse and expand;

a first hinge mechanism interconnecting the first and second segments;

a second hinge mechanism interconnecting the second and third segments;

a third hinge mechanism interconnecting the third and fourth segments;

the first and third hinge mechanisms defining a first axis, wherein the frame is foldable about the first axis to form a first collapsed position; and

the second hinge mechanism defining a second axis generally coplanar with the first axis, wherein the frame is foldable about the second axis to form a second collapsed position.

54 (withdrawn). The collapsible structure of claim 53, wherein the second axis is generally perpendicular to the first axis.

55 (withdrawn). The collapsible structure of claim 53, wherein the second frame is hingedly connected to the first frame.

56 (withdrawn). The collapsible structure of claim 53 further comprising a third frame interconnecting the first and second frames.

57 (withdrawn). The collapsible structure of claim 56, wherein the third frame is hingedly connected to the first and second frames.

58 (withdrawn). The collapsible structure of claim 56, wherein the third frame includes at least first and second segments hingedly connected to one another allowing the third frame to collapse and expand.

59 (withdrawn). The collapsible structure of claim 53, wherein at least one of the first and second frames further comprising a fourth hinge mechanism interconnects the fourth and first segments, wherein the second axis extends through the fourth hinge mechanism.

60 (withdrawn). The collapsible structure of claim 53, further comprising a fabric material associated with at least one of the first and second frames.

61 (currently amended). A collapsible structure movable between an expanded position to a collapsed position, the collapsible structure comprising:

at least two side portions, each side portion including an upper side portion and a lower side portion, each upper side portion including upper side members pivotally connected to each other via a first hinge, each lower side portion including lower side members pivotally

connected to each other via a second hinge, the lower side members being pivotally connected to the upper side members via third hinges;

at least two upper connecting portions, each upper connecting portion including upper connecting members pivotally connected to each other via a fourth hinge, the upper connecting portions being pivotally connected to the upper side portions via fifth hinges;

at least two lower connecting portions, each lower connecting portion including lower connecting members pivotally connected to each other via a sixth hinge, the lower connecting portions being pivotally connected to the lower side portions via seventh hinges;

wherein the side portions, the upper connection portions, and the lower connection portions define a three dimensional enclosure within the structure in the expanded position; and

wherein a first folding axis is defined which passes through the third hinges, and a second folding axis is defined which passes through the first and second hinges[[:]]

~~whereby the structure may be collapsed from the expanded position to the collapsed position to form a substantially flat panel by:~~

~~—— pivoting the connecting portions at the fourth and sixth hinges to fold the connecting members onto each other such that the at least two side portions are positioned adjacent with each other;~~

~~—— folding the side members onto each other about the first folding axis; and~~

~~—— folding the side members onto each other about the second folding axis.~~

62 (canceled).

63 (previously presented). The collapsible structure according to claim 61, wherein the first, second, third, fourth and sixth hinges are constructed and arranged to permit a maximum pivoting movement of 180°.

64 (previously presented). The collapsible structure according to claim 61, wherein the fifth and seventh hinges are constructed and arranged to permit a maximum pivoting movement of 90°.

65 (previously presented). The collapsible structure according to claim 61, wherein the structure comprises two said first hinges, two said second hinges, four said third hinges, two said fourth hinges, four said fifth hinges, two said sixth hinges, and four said seventh hinges.

66 (previously presented). The collapsible structure according to claim 65, wherein in the collapsed position, the first and second hinges are proximal to each other, the third hinges are proximal to each other, the fourth hinges are proximal to each other, and the sixth hinges are proximal to each other.

67 (previously presented). The collapsible structure according to claim 61, wherein the first folding axis is substantially perpendicular to the second folding axis.

68 (previously presented). The collapsible structure according to claim 61, wherein the upper side members are arcuate.

69 (previously presented). The collapsible structure according to claim 61, wherein the lower side members are substantially L-shaped.

70 (previously presented). The collapsible structure according to claim 61, further comprising a fabric material covering a substantial portion of the structure.

71 (previously presented). The collapsible structure according to claim 61, wherein the connecting members are foldable in a direction parallel to the first folding axis, and the fourth and sixth hinges are movable in an inwardly direction.

72 (previously presented). The collapsible structure according to claim 61, wherein the hinges are selected from the group consisting of:

two opposing arms pivotally connected to a connecting piece, each arm being connected by a pivot pin passing through a hole in a pivoting end of the arm and a hole in the connecting piece, the pivoting end of the arm defining a guide to prevent the arm from rotating more than 90° relative to the connecting piece; and

two opposing lateral arms and a perpendicular arm pivotally connected to three faces of a connecting piece, respectively, each arm being connected by a pivot pin passing through a hole in a pivoting end of the arm and a hole in the connecting piece, the connecting piece having barrier portions to prevent the lateral arms from rotating more than 45° relative to the connecting piece and to prevent the perpendicular arm from rotating more than 90° relative to the connecting piece.

73 (currently amended). A method for collapsing a the collapsible structure according to claim 61, ~~having at least two side portions, each side portion including an upper side portion and a lower side portion, each upper side portion including upper side members pivotally connected to each other via a first hinge, each lower side portion including lower side members pivotally connected to each other via a second hinge, and the lower side members being pivotally connected to the upper side members via third hinges; at least two upper connecting portion, each upper connecting portion including upper connecting members pivotally connected to each other via a fourth hinge, the upper connecting portions being pivotally connected to the upper side portions via fifth hinges; at least two lower connecting portions, each lower connecting portion including lower connecting members pivotally connected to each other via a sixth hinge, the lower connecting portions being pivotally connected to the lower side portions via seventh hinges, wherein a first folding axis is defined which passes through the third hinges, and a second folding axis is defined which passes through the first and second hinges, and the structure is movable between a collapsed position in which the structure forms a substantially flat panel and an expanded position defining a three-dimensional enclosure within the structure;~~

the method comprising the steps of:

pivoting the connecting members at the fourth and sixth hinges to fold the connecting members onto each other such that the at least two side portions are positioned adjacent with each other;

folding the side members onto each other about the first folding axis; and

folding the side members onto each other about the second folding axis.